

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification at page 1, line 5, as follows:

~~This is a continuation-in-part application of our earlier copending, commonly assigned application Serial No. 08/943,927 filed October 3, 1997, which is now abandoned.~~  
This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 from U.S. Application Serial No. 09/036,197, filed on March 6, 1998 (the parent application), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/943,927, filed October 3, 1997, and under 35 U.S.C. § 119 from Japanese Patent Application Nos. P08-264496, filed October 4, 1996; P09-052125, filed March 6, 1997; and P09-338895, filed December 9, 1996. The entire content of the parent application is incorporated herein by reference.